for shortage of power in various States, including the State of Rajasthan is inadequate capacity addition *vis-a-vis* growth in demand. During the period April, '07 to January, '08 Rajasthan faced energy and peaking shortages of 1.8% and 12.8% as compared to 5.1% and 16.8% respectively during the corresponding period of last year. As compared to 6.5% increase in energy requirement during the above period, the increase in availability was 12.2%, which helped in reducing the gap between demand and supply of power.

(d) Electricity being a concurrent subject under the Constitution, supply and distribution of electricity to different areas/various categories of consumers in a State falls within the purview of the concerned State Government/Power Utilities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments by way of generation capacity addition and bulk transmissionof power through the Central Sector Power Utilities.

The steps taken/being taken to improve power supply position in the country include augmentation of generating capacity by over 78,500 MW during the 11th Plan, development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4,000 MW capacity, improving performance of existing power stations, renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units, harnessing surplus captive power into the grid, strengthening of inter-state and inter-regional transmission capacity for optimum utilization of available power promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures and import of power from Bhutan.

Capacity addition to the tune of 1790 MW has been envisaged in the State Sector in Rajasthan during the Eleventh Plan.

Land requirement norms for UMPPs

424. SHRIC. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

whether the Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) in the country such as the Sasan Project in Madhya Pradesh, Krishnapatnam Project in Andhra Pradesh and Mundra Project in Gujarat are facing continuous problems of land acquisition;

if so, whether Government is considering to bring down the land requirement by 40 per cent to overcome the situation;

if so, whether the massive cut in land requirement would hamper their future expansion plans;

(d) if so, the details of the future plans that would be shelved; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. The process of land acquisition is being completed after observing the prescribed statutory procedures. Utilization of land is possible only after obtaining various requisite clearances like environment clearance, forest clearance and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

NTPC's Joint venture for equipment manufacturing

425. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

whether NTPC has decided to form a joint venture with M/s Bharat Forge for equipment manufacturing;

if so, the details of the proposal approved by NTPC, including stake holding, product profile and quantum of investment, etc.;

whether NTPC has bagged any order for UMPP projects;

if so, the details thereof;

whether NTPC's entry in capital goods industry is to shift from its core area of activity in power generation; and

if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC has signed en MoU with M/s Bharat Forge Limited on 8/2/2008 to promote a Joint Venture (JV) Company.

The Company is proposed to be set up with equity participation from NTPC and Bharat Forge Limited in the ratio 49.51 respectively. The proposed authorized capital of the company is Rs. 10 lakhs. However, the investment in future will depend upon the techno-commercial viability of the proposal.

The aim of the JV company is to establish a facility, subject to techno-commercial viability, to initially take up manufacture of castings, forgings, fittings and high pressure pipings required for power and other industries, Balance of Plant (BoP) equipment for the power sector etc., including tie ups with strategic partners. The JV company may eventually also explore opportunities related to manufacturing of power equipment.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. NTPC has not bagged any order for Ultra Mega Power Project (UMPP) till date.

(e) and (0 No, Sir. NTPC does not plan to shift from its core area of activity in power generation. However, in order to strengthen its competive advantage in Power Generation Business, NTPC plans to strategically diversify its portfolio to emerge as an integrated power major and accordingly continuously explores various business opportunities. At present it does not have the necessary expertise to undertake power equipment manufacturing activities on its own. Therefore, NTPC plans to partner with suitable strategic partners who can bring the expertise in manufacturing which in combination with NTPC's strength in Planning, Engineering, Project Management and Operational expertise can be used to develop a viable equipment manufacturing facility apart from providing services.

Power supply to Chhattisgarh

†426. SHRI SHREEGOPAL WAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

whether Chhattisgarh had alleged the Central Government for partiality in regard to power distribution;

whether the State has fulfilled its requirement on its own capacity and there is 24 hour power supply in the State; and

what is Centres contribution in this regard?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.